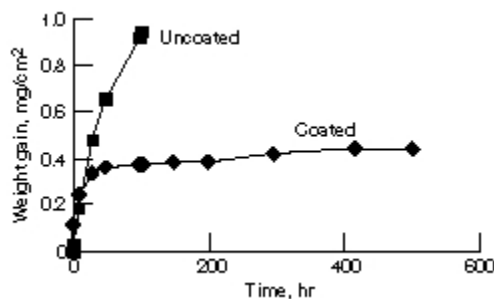


# An Oxidation-Resistant Coating Alloy for Gamma Titanium Aluminides

Titanium aluminides based on the  $\gamma$ -phase (TiAl) offer the potential for component weight savings of up to 50 percent over conventional superalloys in 600 to 850 °C aerospace applications (ref. 1). Extensive development efforts over the past 10 years have led to the identification of "engineering"  $\gamma$ -alloys, which offer a balance of room-temperature mechanical properties and high-temperature strength retention (ref. 1). The  $\gamma$  class of titanium aluminides also offers oxidation and interstitial (oxygen and nitrogen) embrittlement resistance superior to that of the  $\alpha_2$  (Ti<sub>3</sub>Al) and orthorhombic (Ti<sub>2</sub>AlNb) classes of titanium aluminides. However, environmental durability is still a concern, especially at temperatures above 750 to 800 °C. Recent work at the NASA Lewis Research Center led to the development of an oxidation-resistant coating alloy that shows great promise for the protection of  $\gamma$  titanium aluminides.

Aluminizing treatments, conventional MCrAlY (M = Ni or Fe) coatings, and ceramic oxidation-resistant coatings for  $\gamma$ -based titanium aluminides have not proven successful because of poor mechanical properties, thermal expansion mismatch, and chemical incompatibility. Promising coating alloys have been identified in the Ti-Al-Cr system (ref. 2). These alloys exhibit excellent oxidation resistance and are generally compatible with the  $\gamma$  substrate alloys; however, they are brittle (ref. 2).

A Ti-Al-Cr oxidation-resistant coating alloy recently developed at NASA Lewis offers excellent substrate compatibility and some improvement in mechanical properties, without sacrificing oxidation resistance (refs. 3 and 4). The alloy composition, Ti-51Al-12Cr (in atomic percent), was selected so that the microstructure consists of the  $\gamma$ -phase and a minor volume of the oxidation-resistant Ti(Cr,Al)<sub>2</sub> Laves phase. By basing the coating alloy on the  $\gamma$ -phase, we can optimize the mechanical properties and substrate compatibility. The volume fraction of the Laves phase is kept to a minimum because it is extremely brittle.



*Weight gain data for a low-pressure plasma spray Ti-51Al-12Cr coating on Ti-48Al-2Cr-2Nb exposed at 800 °C in air. At each data point, the sample was air cooled to room temperature, weighed, and returned to the test furnace. Data indicate that the coating*

*successfully protected the substrate from oxidation.*

The Ti-51Al-12Cr coating alloy was applied to the General Electric  $\gamma$ -alloy, Ti-48Al-2Cr-2Nb (in atomic percent), by low-pressure plasma spray. Oxidation tests at 800 and 1000 °C in air indicated that the coating alloy successfully protected the substrate from oxidation (see the figure). Evaluation of the isothermal fatigue behavior of coated Ti-48Al-2Cr-2Nb at elevated temperatures in air is in progress.

## References

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**Lewis contacts:** Dr. James L. Smialek, (216) 433-5500, James.L.Smialek@grc.nasa.gov; and Dr. William J. Brindley, (216) 433-3274, William.J.Brindley.@grc.nasa.gov

**Authors:** Dr. Michael P. Brady, Dr. James L. Smialek, and Dr. William J. Brindley

**Headquarters program office:** OA